

CLAIMS

No
Antecedent
Claim

10 1. A milking plant for milking animals, comprising milk collecting means, attachable to teats of said animals, a vacuum supply system, milk storage means, a milk line system connected to the collecting means and connectable to the milk storage means by milk storage valve means, selectively adjustable to prevent fluid communication between said milk line system and said milk storage means during cleaning of the milk line system, characterised by pressure regulating means, capable of arranging a lower fluid pressure in the milk line system than in the milk storage means, when said first valve means are closed.

15 2. The milking plant as recited in claim 1, further comprising cleaning means having a cleaning fluid supply, a cleaning fluid washer, a cleaning fluid return pump, and a cleaning fluid supply line system, connected to the milk line system and selectively capable of fluid communication therewith through cleaning fluid valve means, and connectable to the milk collecting means, thereby obtaining a closed fluid communicating loop.

20 3. The milking plant as recited in claim 2, further comprising an air separator with an intake connected to the cleaning fluid supply line system for return flow of cleaning fluid from the milk line system, an air outlet selectively connected to the vacuum supply system, and an output connected to the cleaning fluid pump.

25 4. The milking plant as recited in claim 3, wherein said air separator further comprises a cleaning fluid drainage valve.

30 5. The milking plant as recited in claim 3 or 4, wherein said cleaning fluid return pump has an output connected to a non-return valve, preventing fluid flow back into said cleaning fluid return pump.

35 6. The milking plant as recited in any of the claims 3 - 5, wherein the cleaning fluid return pump is a centrifugal pump comprising an impeller, connected to the air separator with the centre of said impeller located immediately against said output of the air separator.

7. The milking plant as recited in any of the preceding claims, wherein said milk storage means comprises a milk cooling tank.

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8. A method for cleaning of a milking plant for milking animals, the milk plant comprising milk collecting means, attachable to teats of said animals, a, milk storage means, a milk line system connected to the collecting means and connectable to the milk storage means by milk storage valve means, selectively
5 adjustable to prevent fluid communication between said milk line system and said milk storage means during cleaning of the milk line system, **characterised by the steps of**

- closing said milk storage valve means;
- arranging a cleaning fluid circulation loop by connecting said milk collecting
10 means and said milk line system to a cleaning fluid supply, and
- arranging a lower fluid pressure in the cleaning fluid circulation loop than in the milk storage means.

9. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the step of arranging a lower fluid
15 pressure in the cleaning fluid circulation loop is obtained by connecting it to said vacuum supply system.